

House Resolution 213

By: Representatives Harbin of the 118th, Burkhalter of the 50th, and Burmeister of the 119th

A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring May as Stroke Awareness Month in Georgia and encouraging the citizens of
2 Georgia to discuss stroke prevention with their health care providers; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, every 53 seconds someone in the United States experiences a stroke, and one-
4 third of stroke victims are under the age of 65; and

5 WHEREAS, stroke, or brain attack, is the third leading cause of death in America, killing
6 160,000 people annually; and

7 WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of adult disability, and there are more than four million
8 stroke survivors in the United States, two-thirds of whom live with moderate to severe
9 disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, the United States spends more than \$52 billion in direct and indirect costs on
11 stroke; and

12 WHEREAS, prompt treatment of stroke can save lives and reduce disability; and

13 WHEREAS, a majority of Americans do not know how to reduce their risk of stroke and
14 cannot identify a single symptom of stroke, which include sudden numbness or weakness of
15 face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion or trouble speaking,
16 understanding, walking, or seeing; and sudden headache with no known cause; and

17 WHEREAS, stroke is one of the most preventable of all life-threatening health problems, yet
18 many Americans do not discuss their stroke risks with their primary health care providers;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, public awareness of the risks and warning signs of a stroke is essential to
2 prevention and early treatment, which can greatly reduce the incidents of stroke and its often
3 devastating side effects; and

4 WHEREAS, National Stroke Association celebrates National Stroke Awareness Month in
5 May and urges people to take charge of their health by asking their health care providers
6 about stroke risks and adopting healthy lifestyle habits to lower their risk; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia is located in the region known as the "stroke belt" and, as the sixth
8 leading state in deaths due to strokes, is considered the "buckle" of the stroke belt.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
10 the members of this body declare May as Stroke Awareness Month in the State of Georgia
11 and encourage the citizens of Georgia to talk to their health care providers about reducing
12 their risk of stroke.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
14 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to National Stroke Association.